

Not long ago CML, cancer of the white blood cells, resulted in a rapid death after the initial diagnosis. But today, thanks to innovative therapies, CML is more frequently managed as a chronic condition.

Within the past decade, as various drug therapies to treat CML became available, five-year survival rates increased from 50 percent to nearly 90 percent. Although 28,000 Americans currently live with CML, that number is estimated to increase to as many as 250,000 Americans by 2040.

However, as with many rare diseases, progress in the development of treatments for CML brings with it a variety of challenges—for patients, physicians and the government. Treatments are expensive, and before recent changes in the law, some patients who managed the disease as a chronic condition exhausted their lifetime health insurance maximums. And genetic mutations cause patients to find previously effective treatments becoming ineffective.

Earlier this week, the Rare Disease Caucus—of which I am a congressional co-chair—had the opportunity to see the faces of CML up-close and personal.

From Poughkeepsie, New York, to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to Lincoln, Nebraska, we heard the emotional stories, the extraordinary hardship, the hope and the faith that someday we may find a cure for CML.

The exact cause of the genetic changes behind CML is unknown. Continued research toward a cure and increased awareness remain vital to fighting the disease and improving the quality of life for those already living with it.

I applaud the goals and ideals of CML Awareness Day. I strongly support promoting research and ensuring access to treatment that someday may lead toward a cure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like the RECORD to reflect that, had I been present for the vote, I should have voted “nay” on the Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment with an Amendment to the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 (H.R. 2608) as I had voted against it on Wednesday, September 21, 2010.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 4

9:30 a.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine improving the budget process, focusing on strategies for more effective congressional budgeting.

SD-608

10 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the economic outlook.

SH-216

10:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine costs of prescription drug abuse in the Medicare Part D program.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

OCTOBER 5

10 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Susan Denise Page, of Illinois,

to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan, Adrienne S. O'Neal, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cape Verde, Mary Beth Leonard, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mali, and Mark Francis Brzezinski, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Sweden, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

OCTOBER 6

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine internet infrastructure in native communities, focusing on equal access to e-commerce, jobs and the global marketplace.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

OCTOBER 13

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Carcieri crisis, focusing on the ripple effect on jobs, economic development and public safety in native communities.

SD-628

OCTOBER 20

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 134, to authorize the Mescalero Apache Tribe to lease adjudicated water rights, S. 399, to modify the purposes and operation of certain facilities of the Bureau of Reclamation to implement the water rights compact among the State of Montana, the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, and the United States, S. 1298, to provide for the conveyance of certain property located in Anchorage, Alaska, from the United States to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, S. 1327, to amend the Act of March 1, 1933, to transfer certain authority and resources to the Utah Dineh Corporation, and S. 1345, to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam.

SD-628